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PROTEST OVER HORTON CUTS

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CAMPAIGNERS are calling on health bosses to be "open and honest" after news some maternity services could be suspended at the Horton Hospital because of a recruitment crisis.

Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, which runs the Banbury hospital, confirmed last week it was planning to make the maternity unit 'midwife-led' from the end of September due to staff shortages.

This would mean women in childbirth who experienced complications would have to be taken by ambulance to Oxford's John Radcliffe Hospital, due to not enough specialist doctors being on site.

But campaigners have raised doubts over the true reason for the possible suspension of services. In June, the Banbury Cake revealed the trust was considering moving services as part of a plan to save £2.2 million.

The Keep the Horton General group, which has battled for years to protect services, will protest at the hospital on Saturday evening.

Midwives, patients and parents are invited to meet at the hospital from 7.45pm.

KTHG chairman Keith Strangwood, whose daughter Lexus was delivered stillborn at eight months at the hospital in 2011, said the trust was playing the campaign like an old violin.

He added: "There are difficult questions which the trust needs to answer."

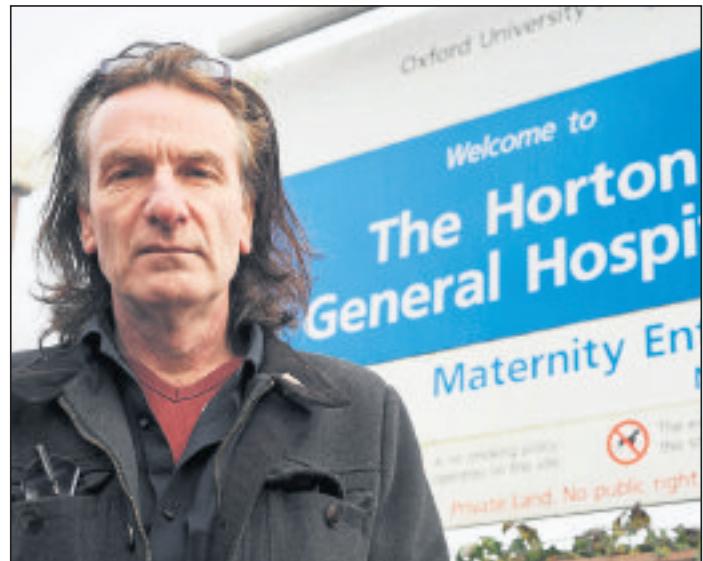
"This sort of thing is happening around the country and they are treating us with disrespect."

Mr Strangwood suggested temporary staff could be bought in to help with the shortage at the hospital, meaning fewer patients would have to travel to the John Radcliffe Hospital for appointments.

Campaigners will also join hands around the hospital on August 21 in response to the maternity unit proposals.

The trust said a final decision will be made in late August, but preparations are being made at the John Radcliffe from today for the possibility of extra beds being required at the hospital's women's centre.

It said it was struggling to recruit enough "middle-grade doctors" - who are slightly less experienced than con-



Campaigner Keith Strangwood wants families and staff to protest at Horton General on Saturday evening over changes to maternity services

sultants - for the unit to offer services safely.

Paul Brennan, director of clinical services at the trust, said: "We are trying very hard to fill these posts, but we are also making contingency arrangements in case recruitment continues to prove unsuccessful."

"We want to keep the service as it is now."

"Difficulty in recruitment is unfortunately a risk we have identified for some time, and we have been working hard to manage it."

"However, this reflects national difficulties in recruiting to obstetrics."

Banbury MP Victoria Prentis, who was born at the hospital, said she was very upset and disappointed to hear about the possible suspension to services.

She added: "I understand the difficulties in recruiting obstetric doctors, but I firmly believe that a solution can be found that will ensure the continuation of a consultant-led unit at the Horton."

"Banbury needs high quality maternity care at a level that a midwifery-led unit cannot provide."

Mrs Prentis added that had been involved in discussions with those involved and was happy to speak with any constituents affected by the changes.

Town council leader Kieron Mallon called on hospital bosses to show "trust and openness."

He said: "It's important that the hospital managers show us the recruitment efforts they have, and are going to use to find replacement doctors if they are to stop people and staff believing that they are party to a conspiracy."

"It is time for innovative solutions not simply rolling over."

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Council wants order to stamp out begging

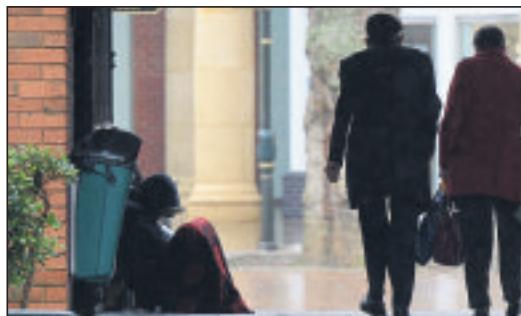
Charity says those asking for cash are not homeless but visitors from out of town

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COUNCILLORS want to stamp out begging in Banbury after receiving 128 complaints over the last 12 months from members of the public.

A consultation has begun on the introduction of a Public Space Protection Order aimed at targeting beggars in the town centre.

It follows the introduction



Cherwell District Council hopes a Public Space Protection Order will stamp out beggin in Banbury

of two PSPOs in Oxford in February to stop aggressive begging in the city centre.

Under the orders beggars could face fines of up to £1,000.

National charities have hit out at PSPOs for criminalising the homeless but Cherwell District Council has said many people are coming from outside of Banbury.

In June, there were six known rough sleepers and others who are begging are travelling to Banbury.

The council's lead mem-

ber for public protection, Tony Ilott, said: "There are two parts to this PSPO. The first is addressing concerns raised by shoppers and traders who feel intimidated by people who are begging for money and engaging in anti-social behaviour.

"The second is identifying those who are genuinely in need of support and using all approved channels to get them the help they need.

"We don't have evidence that these people are coming from Oxford in particular but we do have evidence that people are coming from outside the town.

"It has definitely got worse over the past year. I think we are safe to say for every person that writes in their is likely to be another nine not happy about it either."

The council hopes the PSPO, covering the town centre from Cherwell Drive and Castle Quay to Gatteridge Street and Britannia Road, will deter these people from travelling into Banbury.

Businesses are also backing the homelessness campaign in Banbury by displaying posters for people to donate

to related charities instead of directly to beggars.

Tim Tarby-Donald of the Banbury Young Homelessness Project said: "This, I understand, is more of an antisocial behaviour issue rather than a homelessness one, as the vast majority of the people we all see day-to-day drinking, causing disturbances and begging around the town are not in fact homeless.

"I know from the voluntary work I do with Visit Banbury the issue of antisocial behaviour from beggars and drunks in the centre of Banbury is a major source of concern.

"This leads me to believe that for the overall good of the town, the police and council need to have the powers to address this behaviour, but with a measured response as I have heard of beggars coming into the town by bus from Brackley to benefit from the kindness of Banbury people."

The consultation runs until August 15 and has 13 questions. See surveymonkey.co.uk/r/PSPOBanburyTownCentreArea

Community joins together for fun



Anser Hussain, Philippe Grebert, Helen White and Jake Ellement planting a fig tree at the international day

MORE than a dozen nationalities gathered in Banbury to celebrate the town's diverse community.

Live music, food and entertainment was all on offer as about 150 people enjoyed the beautiful surroundings of the Naomi's Cafe community garden on Saturday.

The International Day was the idea of Visit Banbury and Banbury Community Action Group as a way of bringing people together.

Co-organisers Steve Gold and Tim Tarby-Donald said the event came about following the Brexit vote in last month's European Union referendum.

Mr Gold added: "We were in Banbury market the Saturday after the vote and people were being interviewed about what had happened. People were quite depressed about it and Tim had all these ideas of what we could do."

The pair invited musicians to take part, and called on people to show solidarity with other ethnic groups.

Mr Gold, of Queen's Road, said: "We had a lot of Europeans come along as well as some from the Asian community. I would like to think we would do something similar again, and it's a very nice venue to hold it in."

Families get a taste of life in wartime at country house

THE families of two men who worked at a merchant bank in North Oxfordshire during the Second World War met up to learn what life was like during the period as part of an education programme.

Descendants of Barney Adler

and Albert McCarthy gathered at Upton House last week, where the two men worked for M. Samuel & Co during wartime.

A total of 21 family members enjoyed a meal together in the estate's Pavilion restaurant

before going on a guided tour around the building where the bank employees lived and worked.

It was part of the country house's work to tell the story of the bank staff and explain what life was like for people

during the war.

Reunion organiser Ruth Liss said: "We were really looking forward to learning about our grandfather's history.

"We were so thrilled to be able to get everyone together in this fantastic location."

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Town stalwart honoured for decades of dedication

Councillor tells of his pride at being awarded Honorary Alderman title

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AFTER nearly five decades of serving Banbury, a former councillor has been honoured by his colleagues.

Fred Blackwell has been appointed to the role of Honorary Alderman, a title which reflects the past achievements of the town's representatives.

The Easington resident had served on the district council and on its predecessor Banbury Borough Council for 45 years before retiring in May.

Speaking about his award, he said: "It was great, wonderful. I couldn't believe it. I am never usually lost for words but I was when I received the honour."

"When I saw the number of people who spoke about what a nice bloke I was, I wondered if they were talking about me."

The title was awarded by district council leader Barry Wood and council chairwoman Chris Heath at a special council meeting on July 18.

Father-of-two Mr Blackwell, 88, added: "Barry and I have had a good relationship for many years, and he called me a week beforehand asking if I was doing anything on the 18th."

"I replied 'not a lot since I'm retired' but when he said about the honour I soon picked myself up."

Among Mr Blackwell's highlights of his time in politics was visiting Buckingham Palace three times and meeting members of the Royal Family as well as the opening of the council's Bodicote House base.

He said: "I ended up doing a bit of everything as councillor."

"I did some tree planting, some roadworks. I pushed for things that were not being pushed."

Mr Wood paid tribute to the former councillor and said: "Fred is widely known in the district as a proper councillor."

"He was dedicated to serving his community and was a pleasure to work with."

During his time as a councillor, Mr Blackwell held a range of positions including council chairman and executive member.

Mr Wood said: "He has served as chairman of countless committees over the years, and became known for his fairness and insistence on always listening properly to all the evidence."

"At times his duties might not have been the most glamorous, but he fulfilled them with diligence and commitment regardless."

"He undertook difficult jobs such as chairing appeal panels with real impartiality and a focus on the evidence he was presented with."

"On a personal note, Fred is widely



Fred Blackwell has been given the title of Honorary Alderman by Cherwell District Council. He is pictured with Christine Heath



Fred Blackwell, centre, with councillors by Banbury's new welcome sign in 1974

respected for the courtesy and respect he shows to everyone who crosses his path."

The term 'Alderman' is a traditional title that derives from Old English and means "elder man".

Those given the title in North Oxfordshire have their names inscribed on a roll of honour, and are also presented

with their own scroll at a formal council ceremony.

As part of the role, Mr Blackwell will be asked to represent the council at official events.

But he said he was looking forward to parking in the members' area at the council's Bodicote House base so he can visit old friends there.

More time to splash out at open-air pool

BANBURY'S open-air pool has launched its new summer timetable to help residents cool off after the recent warm weather.

The pool at Woodgreen Leisure Centre is now open for al fresco swimming seven days a week, with daily morning swim sessions from 10am to 1pm and afternoon sessions from 2pm to 5pm.

Public sessions at the 50m heated pool will run alongside early bird and adult lane sessions which will take place at set times throughout the week.

The pool first opened its doors for the 2016 season at the end of May.

It is operated by Legacy Leisure on behalf of Cherwell District Council, and receives annual contributions from Banbury Town Council towards the running costs.

Town council leader Kieron Mallon said: "Once again we are thrilled to be lending our support towards the provision and running of Woodgreen Open-Air Pool. Over the years, thousands of people

have enjoyed whiling away the summer at this popular facility and those who spent their time here as youngsters are now bringing their own children along."

Visitors can also take advantage of a flume, interactive splash zone for toddlers and a snack bar serving hot food throughout the day.

For more information on opening times and costs visit leisurecentre.com/ /woodgreen-leisure-centre or call 01295 262742.

Burglaries warning after break-in spate

SUPERINTENDENT Kath Lowe has warned residents in Cherwell of a recent increase in burglaries being reported in the area.

The district's police commander put out the public warning and a reminder to people about leaving windows and doors open. It comes after figures revealed at a Bicester Town Council meeting found that the number of burglaries over the past year in Bicester Town went up from 38 to 46 and in rural areas from 11 to 19.

Supt Lowe urged residents to be extra vigilant and report any suspicious circumstances immediately on 101.

Minecraft on offer

GAMERS with an appetite for construction are in for a treat at a Banbury cafe that has reinstated its Minecraft Madness events.

Sessions at Naomi's Cafe Bar in Bridge Street have been reinstated on the last Sunday of every month.

Children keen on the game, which involves creating buildings and structures by placing blocks and going on adventures in a randomly-generated world, can play from 11am to 3pm while parents relax in the cafe or enjoy a barbecue.

It costs £5 per child to take part. For more information, call 01295 259795.

Shows held outside

OPEN-AIR performances will be staged at The Mill Arts Centre in Banbury next month. Shows include dance company Motionhouse's Captive, Cherwell theatre Company and Young Anjali Dance Company and is free to visitors. It will be hosted on Wednesday, August 10, from 1pm to 8pm with performances from 3pm.



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Firms' Olympic advice

EMPLOYERS across Oxfordshire have been warned to prepare for potential problems caused by workers taking time off to enjoy the 2016 Olympics.

The Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) has launched new guidance to help employers prepare for potential issues that could arise when the games in Rio take place between Friday, August 5 and Sunday, August 21.

The workplace experts are advising employers to have agreements in place that cover requests for time off, sickness absence and website use during working hours to watch the games.

Acas chairman Sir Brendan Barber said:

"Rio 2016 will be an exciting event for many sports fans but staff should avoid getting disqualified for unreasonable demands or behaviour in the workplace during this period."

"Employers should have a set of simple workplace agreements in place before the starting gun goes off for the Olympic Games."

"These agreements can help ensure businesses remain productive while keeping staff happy too."

Keith Slater, director of Oxfordshire Town Chambers Network, which represents small businesses, said: "It's wise for employers to make arrangements with their staff."

"If they do make allowances then that could

boost the team spirit."

Acas is advising employers to start planning as soon as possible to reduce the impact that the Olympic Games could have on their business as annual leave requests could be higher during this period.

Employers could also allow their staff to come in later or finish sooner, according to Acas, and follow coverage on the radio or TV.

Acas said there could also be increased use of social media, and employers should remind staff of any policies on the use of social networking and websites during working hours.

Full Acas guidance for the 2016 Olympic Games is available at acas.org.uk/rio2016.

Greens calling for referendum on councils

THE Green Party has called for a referendum before new councils are created in Oxfordshire.

In a report, the party said three 'unitary' authorities in the north of the county, Oxford City and the south of the county that would deliver all services made the most sense.

These would replace the current two-tier system, where the county council

delivers some services and district councils deliver others.

But Green leader David Williams said a decision should be made by the public, not "behind closed doors".

His comments came after the county and district councils called a truce, after a row broke out about how local government should be made simpler in order to

win a devolution deal with the Government.

The county council has previously supported having one council for all of Oxfordshire, but the districts have called for three or four councils.

Mr Williams said: "The people of Oxford should have a say in what they consider the best for their local governments structure."

Commuters face delays as major rail work begins



There are fears over whether Oxford Parkway can cope with extra demand

Delays and replacement buses as key routes are closed as track revamp and station work gets under way

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THERE are fears Oxford Parkway train station won't be able to cope with extra demand if the county prepares for the closure of key railway routes.

Routes linking Oxford to Didcot Parkway, Banbury and Hanborough will all be closed in the coming weeks as a number of improvements are carried out at the same time.

With Oxford Parkway the only remaining route into London from the city, without getting on a bus, commuters fear there could be major problems at the newly-built station in Kidlington from Monday morning. Chiltern Railways, which runs the route, has said it has thousands of extra seats available to prepare for an influx of extra passengers.

Chris Bates, of Cherwell Rail Users' Group, said: "There could be major capacity problems at Oxford Parkway as everyone will be bussed there during the work."

"The rail companies have done everything they can but it may not guard against chaos once the work starts."

Great Western Railway tickets will be valid on Oxford Parkway services and the connecting bus from Oxford station encouraging passengers to flock to the station north of Oxford.

Commuters have been advised to change their working hours or take annual leave as many of the county's key routes are set to close for two weeks. And with 850,000 season ticket-holders using trains from Oxford there are worries too many people will head to the Parkway station instead.

Mr Bates, who regularly commutes to London, either from Banbury or Oxford Parkway, said: "In the first week we could be okay but in the second week when Chiltern's timetable goes back to normal we could see major problems."

"It has been recommended that people take holiday or stagger their hours and avoid peak times but I don't know what the take up on that will be - it's not easy for everyone to do that."

Work to raise the tracks at Hinksey to protect against flooding will close the railway between Oxford and Didcot Parkway from this Saturday until Saturday August 14.

At the same time from this weekend until Sunday, August 7 the line between Oxford and Banbury will be closed for a week for signalling improvements and bridge repairs will shut the railway between Oxford and Hanborough for five days from Wednesday, August 3.

Passengers using Chiltern Railways services will also be affected with lines due to be closed from Oxford to Leamington Spa, Banbury and Bicester North between Saturday, July 30 and August 8. Replacement buses will also be running from Oxford Parkway to Hanborough, attracting more people to the station.

Transport expert Hugh Jaeger said: "I think it is the right time to do the works, which are nec-

essary. The line between Didcot and Oxford is Victorian and it needs upgrading. My concern is what Chiltern Railways will do."

"Will they have enough extra carriages to cope with the extra passengers from Oxford station?"

"A lot of people who cannot get to Paddington will decide to get the train to Marylebone. Are Chiltern going to be ready?"

The rail operator said it had been working with Network Rail, Great Western Railway and Cross Country Railway to "minimise the impact" of the additional passengers.

Head of communications for Chiltern Railways Nicola Clark said: "We have got thousands of extra seats which will be available over the time period by having longer trains."

"Through the work period we are putting two of those trains on at 7.01am and 7.34am."

Network Rail communications manager, Matthew Thompson said: "This time of year more people tend to be on holiday and also as it is flood work being carried out we had to be sure with the weather."

"It made sense because of the larger closures to combine the work we are doing between Oxford and Banbury as well."

"Some people have arranged with their employers to work at home for two weeks and others have just taken annual leave."

Rail replacement coaches will run between Oxford and Didcot Parkway every 12 minutes during the improvements with journeys expected to take between 30 and 40 minutes.

An additional hourly service will run between London Paddington and Didcot Parkway as well as two stopping services each hour into London.

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Second blitz on untidy streets will get rid of unsightly rubbish and target fly-tippers

Clean team are busy tackling town's litter



Street cleaner Ben Dyche, Cllr Debbie Pickford, assistant recycling officer Charlotte Smith and mechanical sweeper operator Pete Castle at the last blitz in February, which saw 18 tonnes of rubbish collected

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THE streets of Banbury are set to be spruced up as the council's green team roll up their sleeves to target litter in the town.

Having started on Monday, the team will be picking up rubbish, scrubbing graffiti and moving abandoned cars throughout the week.

It follows a blitz on untidiness in Banbury last February which saw 18 tonnes collected, the equivalent of three African bush elephants.

Cherwell District Council lead member for clean and green Debbie Pickford said: "Our street cleansing officers are busy every day of the year helping the district look its best."

"However some parts of the district suffer from above average volumes of littering, graffiti and flytipping."

"This is why we run these periodic blitzes, which see officers undertaking targeted clean-ups."

"By the end of the week, Banbury town centre will be at its beautiful best to greet visitors and residents alike."

Cherwell District Council is also trying to promote more recycling by offering up blue and brown bins for the discounted price of £10 during the blitz week.

Residents from selected town centre areas can also apply for free bulky waste collections and can have up to three items big removed.

The bulky waste collection service can be booked online by locals for during the blitz week for free and normally costs £16.

Ms Pickford added: "Our free bulky waste promotion is a way for residents to get involved and show their support for the officers going above and beyond the call of duty."

"We want to show that there is an easy and affordable alternative to the flytipping which, because the unfortunate actions of a minority of residents, is blighting some parts of the district."

The most recent example of flytipping in Banbury found 30 bags of rubbish left in a field next to the Oxford Canal in Banbury.

Cherwell District Council said a flytipping stole about 880kg of clothes and electricals from a recycling bank in a field next to Oxford Canal.

The waste meant that the council had to call in five members of staff as a member of the Canal and River Trust who needed to use a boat to get to the site.

Fly-tipping is a criminal offence punishable by a fine of up to £50,000 or 12 months imprisonment if convicted in a magistrates' court. For more information on the blitz or to book bulky waste collections see cherwell.gov.uk/blitz.

Still a chance to have a say on NHS

The NHS in Oxfordshire is calling on patients, parents, carers and employees in Oxfordshire to have their say on how health care is delivered.

Several events run by Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group have already taken place in Oxford, Banbury, Wantage and more drop-in events are being staged next week.

Clinicians and staff will be available to share ideas on how NHS services in the county can deliver high-quality care now and in the future.

People are being asked for their views on how local GP, community and hospital services should develop so that services are of high quality, closer to home, more convenient with better access and can overcome a £200m funding gap by 2020/2021.

Programme director Damon Palmer said: "We really want the public to be partners with us in this process."

"We want people to tell us their views about how we can improve NHS services in Oxfordshire."

"We cannot afford to continue providing services in the way we have done in the past."

"Together we need to re-think how we deliver health and social care services."

The drop-in sessions will focus on the financial health challenges within Oxfordshire, how to prevent people from getting ill, and making the best use of taxpayers' money.

The Big Conversation roadshows are being held on Tuesday, from 2pm to 5pm, at St Mary's Church, Wallingford, on Thursday from 2pm to 5pm at the



Horton General Hospital in Banbury

Littlebury Hotel in Bicester, and on Thursday, August 4 at 11am to 2pm at the Methodist Church in Witney.

People can also take part in a survey by visiting consult.oxfordshireccg.nhs.uk/consult.ti/BigHealthcare/consultationHome

Summer activities on offer

ROUNDERS, mini-hockey and ultimate Frisbee are among the free activities being offered to children this summer in North Oxfordshire.

Starting this week, recreation and sport officers from Cherwell District Council will be touring the district running exercise sessions with eight to 16-year-olds.

Over the next few weeks sport 'Activators' David Norridge and Edward Frape will visit Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington as part of the scheme.

Council deputy leader George Reynolds said: "David and Edward have planned a programme of activities that is

healthy and invigorating but also accessible and fun."

"Sports such as rounders are a great way to keep fit, but they are also a great way to make friends."

"The Activators sessions enjoy a strong following in the district but we are just as keen to welcome new attendees as we are returners."

The sessions will be run as part of Bicester Play Day in Garth Park on August 3 and other events within the region.

Activities are free to attend with no booking required.

For more information email david.norridge@cherwell-dc.gov.uk or edward.frape@cherwell-dc.gov.uk.

MP is relishing new transport role

THE MP for North Oxfordshire Victoria Prentis has been appointed a junior ministerial position just over a year since becoming an MP.

Mrs Prentis will be a Parliamentary Private Secretary (PPS) to ministers in the

Department for Transport, including John Hayes MP.

She said: "I am thrilled to take on a PPS role so early in my Parliamentary career."

"It is an exciting new challenge in my life here at Westminster."



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Outline bid for three new homes

AN outline application to build three new homes in Bloxham has been submitted.

The houses would be built on land east of Barford Road.

The site is enclosed by an adjacent agricultural barn and the grounds of the Bloxham Mill.

A decision is to be made by September 12, and if approved more details will be made available.

To view the application go to cherwell.gov.uk and enter application number 16/01412/OUT.

Plans discussed

THE latest major planning applications in North Oxfordshire will be discussed at a meeting next Thursday, August 4.

The meeting of Cherwell District Council's planning committee will take place at Bodicote House in Bodicote from 2pm.

Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting.

Free tacking day

THAMES Valley Police is holding a free tacking event for horses and equine equipment in Banbury on Friday.

Officers will be at the Countrywide store in Banbury Cross Retail Park and will offer to stamp postcodes on all leather equipment. They will also be giving out crime prevention advice to horse owners.

The event is aimed at helping owners recovering their equipment if it is ever stolen.

It is due to start at 12pm and finish at 3.30pm, but may change depending on demand.

Classes for adults

COURSES in English and Maths have been rolled out for adults across Oxfordshire.

Abingdon & Witney College is offering its biggest ever Adult Learning courses in Oxford, Banbury, Abingdon, Witney, Berinsfield, Bicester, Grove, Didcot and Kidlington.

The courses are free and anyone interested can apply for a position.

Skills and Learning Delivery Manager Joe Carter said: "Given how much we use it, everybody has a right to study English and Maths. We are proud of our course offering for next year and can't wait to get started delivering what are really fundamental skills."

For more information call 01235 555 585 or visit abingdon-witney.ac.uk/oal.

Artists invited to join in summer courses

YOUNG actors and artists are invited to join in with summer courses at the Mill Arts Centre in Banbury.

The centre will be holding a range of sessions including puppetry, set building, photography and printmaking.

Courses will take place next

month, with the first on how to put on a play in a week running from August 15-19.

Run by tutor Emma Webb, the sessions will give children a taste of life in the theatre, including designing sets, costumes and working with acting professionals before performing their own play at

the end of the week.

There will be two days of puppetry and mask making workshops between August 22-23, and participants will enjoy learning processes such as fabric painting, clay sculpting and papier mâché.

Parents may also be interested in paper sculpting on August 24,

children's photography on August 25 and printmaking for children on August 26. All workshops are designed with relaxed start and finish time to accommodate parents with varying work hours.

For more information about the courses on offer go to themillartscentre.co.uk.

Academy bidding to open free special needs school

Luke Sproule

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LONG journeys to Oxford could be a thing of the past for young people in Banbury and Bicester with special educational needs after plans for a new school were announced.

The Iffley Academy in Oxford is set to submit a bid to open a new free school in North Oxfordshire.

The academy, which is the largest special school in the city, wants to cater for many youngsters who live outside of the city.

Headteacher Kay Willett said many pupils at The Iffley Academy currently travelled there from Banbury and Bicester.

She said: "By opening a school in North Oxfordshire we can educate these pupils in their local communities.

"The growth of housing development and the population in Banbury and Bicester is increasing, which is putting further pressure on special school places.

"A new school offering places for pupils with cognition and learning difficulties, social, emotional and mental health difficulties and autistic spectrum condition will compliment and extend the excellent special education needs already provided by the state-funded special schools in the area."

The Iffley Academy – formerly known as The Isis Academy until the rise of the so-called Islamic State caused it to change its name – has about 130 pupils and caters for children from 10 to 18.

The proposed new school would offer day provision for young people from seven to 18.

Cherwell district councillor Mark Cherry, who represents Banbury Ruscote, said there had been a lot of interest in the proposed new school.



Headteacher Kay Willett at The Iffley Academy in Oxford says a new free school would help families outside the city

He said: "I know that there is a real need for schools that deal with children with special educational needs because mainstream schools cannot cope."

"I would welcome this."

"Anything that helps young people in Banbury is a good thing because otherwise parents have to travel to Oxford. It's a very long distance to travel."

"It will have to go through a pro-

cess but if it goes through then I am all for it."

Free schools are state-funded but are not under the control of local authorities.

"They can be set up by groups of parents, charities, churches or, as in this case, by existing schools."

All new schools in England must be either free schools or academies.

Mr Cherry said despite the Labour Party opposing free schools he was

behind the plan.

He said: "I am afraid that is just the way it has to be. It is the way it is going."

"Anything that helps kids with special needs is a good thing."

A public meeting was held in Bloxham earlier this month when people were able to give their views on the proposed school.

No site has yet been identified and the school would be unlikely to open

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NHS alert over racist attacks

A RISE in racist incidents and Islamophobia following the EU referendum has been condemned by an NHS campaign group.

Oxfordshire Keep Our NHS Public called on the Government to promise the future of all foreign workers in the NHS was secure.

In a statement the group said: "The referendum result has triggered huge uncertainty among workers from elsewhere in Europe who make a vital contribution to the NHS and social care."

"The NHS cannot survive without the tens of thousands of

dedicated health staff from across the EU currently working here."

"We call for the Government to recognise this and to state that the future of workers from other parts of Europe who have come to the UK to work in the NHS and other sectors, and that of their families, is completely secure in the UK."

It comes after an Oxford doctor last week said the referendum result would have a "catastrophic" effect on the NHS in Oxfordshire.

Dr Rachel Clarke said EU national doctors and nurses were already considering

leaving the UK in a climate where they now felt unwelcome in their adopted country.

She also said it was "naïve" of anyone that freedom of movement between the UK and the rest of the EU would remain the same under Theresa May.

The prime minister said this month: "The Brexit vote have us a very clear message from people that we couldn't allow



Dr Rachel Clarke

Citizen bid on offer to teenagers

TEENAGERS who have finished their GCSEs are being invited to take part in four-week National Citizen Service courses during the summer.

Oxfordshire County Council was the first local authority to deliver NCS in 2012, launched by then Prime Minister David Cameron.

Over the coming months almost 1,000 15 to 17-year-olds from across the county will take part in social action projects, personal development projects, and outdoor education.

Oxfordshire's programme co-ordinator Ryan Johnson said: "We're five years in and it's fair to say the NCS is now a pretty big deal in Oxfordshire."

"We've reached the point where a very significant proportion - close to 10 per cent - of the county's eligible students are taking part."

"It's clear that young people and their families are seeing this both as a unique opportunity for personal and social development as well as a seriously useful addition to the CV."

"There's a real buzz about what we're able to offer students here and that's helped us to continue to attract more participants - and therefore funding to help the scheme grow."

As well as its 62-acre Oxford-based outdoor education centre, Hill End, the council has access to three similar centres outside its borders in Gloucestershire, Devon and South Wales, where many of the NCS activities take place.

For further information about NCS courses visit oxfordshire.gov.uk.

Legal fight may not stop axe to children's centres

Matt Oliver
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FEARS have been raised that cuts to Oxfordshire's children's centres could still go ahead even if the High Court rules they are illegal.

Lawyers for parents seeking to quash the decision warned they may only win a "stale victory".

Defending the local authority at Birmingham Administrative Court on Wednesday, Peter Oldham QC said this was because overturning the changes would be like trying to "turn back time".

He warned children's centre staff were already leaving after decisions in February 23.

He told Mr Justice Langstaff: "We are collecting council tax to meet the budgets set and we have spent money since the decision on February 23.

"And we have taken the decision-making process forward and this in turn had a very significant effect on staff."

"You will see from the evidence they are leaving at a great rate of knots. It is a great time of anxiety. An awful lot is moving forward and you cannot turn back time."

"Judicial reviews are about reality. We will be ploughing on with

these plans. That is a fact of life."

But the parents behind the legal challenge could now seek an injunction to stop the council from pressing ahead with the changes, due to take effect next March.

David Wolfe QC, speaking for prosecution, told the court the council said in correspondence that an injunction was "not necessary" in May. He added: "It now emerges they engaged a contractor following the February meeting but they did not tell us. We do not want a victory to be a stale victory because of their 'ploughing on'.

"If it involves anything irrevocable, we want to make sure the ring is held."

It came on the second day of hearings in the legal challenge against the children's centres shake-up. The parents who launched the bid are acting on behalf of their children and cannot be named for legal reasons.

In a bid to stop funding being pulled from 31 of 44 children's centres and two of seven early intervention hubs, they have argued the county council made the decision on the wrong basis and did not carry out the right assessments.

The council rejects the claims.

Mr Justice Langstaff is now deciding whether to grant a judicial review and quash the decision.



A protest against the closures before the decisions were taken. No one pictured is involved in the High Court case

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County enjoyed record high winter temperatures

WINTER temperatures in Oxfordshire hit record levels last year, new data from the Met Office has revealed.

The UK experienced its mildest December in at least 350 years and was also wetter than average.

The Met Office said Oxfordshire was one of 23 counties and historic counties where temperatures hit an average of 10C or above in the last month of 2015.

Temperatures in Oxfordshire averaged out as 10.1C for December compared to the normal UK average of 7.9C.

The warmest average temperature was recorded in Middlesex where it was 11.1C.

Oxfordshire also had one of the biggest temperature increase compared to the average December temperature recorded between 1981 and 2010 with an increase of 5.8C.

This was the joint highest increase along with Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire.

Across Britain December 2015 was the wettest calendar month stretching back to 1910, although rainfall was not exceptional in Oxfordshire.

It was also the warmest December in central England since 1659. National Climate Information Centre head Dr

Mark McCarthy said: "The weather during 2015 contained many notable features and I'm sure that everyone will have a personal memory of a weather moment during the year."

"The Central England Temperature for December 2015 differs from long-term averages by more than 5C – by far the greatest positive anomaly of any month in the central England record since the series began in 1659."

Warning to schools on needy students



Ofsted regional director Bardley Simmons says the county's schools must do more for disadvantaged youngsters

Ofsted director says county must do more for pupils in need

Luke Sproule
lsproule@nqo.com

SCHOOLS have been warned they must do more to help disadvantaged children or face the potential of Ofsted enforcing special measures.

The school watchdog's south east regional director Bradley Simmons told the Banbury Cake he had "real concerns" about the gap between poorer children and their richer peers right across the country.

It comes after New Marston Primary School in Oxford became the sixth school in the county to be placed in special measures.

Mr Simmons said despite some schools in the county doing well to meet expectations, there were others letting the "have-nots" of the county down.

He said: "Some specific schools in affluent areas have not dealt well with the disadvantaged kids they have. Schools in Oxfordshire need to pay more attention

to disadvantaged groups and make sure they are getting the education to which they are entitled."

He also said schools and local education authority Oxfordshire County Council could not use the teacher recruitment crisis as an excuse for bad ratings.

Mr Simmons said: "Oxfordshire is not alone in this problem and some authorities deal with these problems a little more proactively.

"They need to think how they can work to really move people into roles, whether that is grow-your-own, whether it is becoming much closer with a teacher training institution in the area."

But the council's education chief Melinda Tilley said Mr Simmons did not understand the problems faced locally, such as high living costs.

She said: "Oxford is the second most expensive place to live after London. We have been asking for salary weightings for key workers for a long time and have been ignored. We are doing a lot to try to put the situation with disadvantaged kids right."

"We are trying to address it but schools also have to do what they can and spend their pupil premium money well."

FOLK BAND TO PLAY FINAL SUMMER CONCERT AT CHURCH

FOLK band Spiro will be appearing at Marston St Lawrence Church near Banbury on August 6 as the climax to a season of summer concerts.

The Bristol-based instrumental quartet will

perform at the church in Marston St Lawrence a week before this year's Cropredy Convention 2016.

Tickets cost £15 and can be booked by calling 01295 713652. Doors open at 6.30pm and is at 7.30pm.

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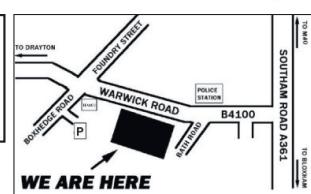


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Success in bed blocking bid

Hospital bosses say number of patients unable to leave wards is at its lowest point in six years

Matt Oliver
moliver@nqo.com

HOSPITALS are hailing a "turning point" in the battle against bed blocking after the number of delayed patients dropped to its lowest level in at least six years.

There were 57 patients delayed in Oxfordshire's hospitals in June, an unprecedented reduction of almost 60 per cent on the previous year.

It also dramatically bucked a national trend that saw delays worsen by 25 per cent across the rest of the country.

The turnaround is being credited to a £2m scheme launched in December, when Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust specially commissioned 150 care home beds for patients to move on to.

The trust also hired extra support workers on higher-than-average salaries and set up a joint working team with Oxford Health, Oxfordshire County Council and Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group to organise transfers.

Clinical director Paul Brennan said: "This is a massive improvement and has been delivered through a collaborative approach between health authorities in Oxfordshire.

"We have halved the delays and for us the challenge is to continue focusing on services rather than beds and go even lower. I think we have now turned a corner."

The improvement was also praised by Yvonne Constance OBE, chairwoman of the county's health scrutiny committee.

The county councillor added: "This is a turning point and we are seeing a real impact being made."

The hospitals trust has addressed this problem with energy and new ideas, as well as recognition that we can deliver the right care outside a hospital environment. What is most significant is the integration of health and social care funding, the hospital has funded these beds and supported them with nursing staff."

Carol Moore, executive director of the patient watchdog Healthwatch, said: "After 10 years of trying to fix the problem, it seems we have finally landed on something that actually works."

"These figures are very promising and we hope they will continue to get even lower."

"If you are well enough to leave, you should not be in a hospital."

Oxfordshire had been among the worst areas in the country for its high levels of bed blocking for more than 10 years.

The problem occurs when patients fit enough to leave hospital have nowhere to be discharged.

Several different attempts to tackle the problem have been made over the years but none have previously been successful.

Officials said they were cautiously optimistic this time, after the number of delayed patients plummeted from 123 in January to just 57 in six months.

County council leader Ian Hudspeth said: "A lot of hard work has gone into achieving this result and we have now got to see it continue over a sustained period."

"The changes brought in have massively helped to unblock the system, but what we really need to do is concentrate on recruiting more health workers."

Oxford East MP Andrew Smith said: "We have waited too long to see progress, but this is nonetheless very good news. It is important to remember this problem does not just cost us money, it is also bad for elderly people who have to stay in hospital when they don't need to be there."

"I welcome these signs of progress and the challenge will now be to keep it up and bring the number of delayed discharges even lower."

Nicola Blackwood, Oxford West and Abingdon MP and newly-appointed health minister, added: "Patients should never be stuck in hospital unnecessarily so it is great to see the excellent progress that has been made in Oxford."



OUH Trust clinical services director Paul Brennan, right, says John Radcliffe Hospital has turned a corner in its bid to tackle bed blocking



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Bourne again excitement

ALMOST 15 years since the bullet-riddled body of Jason Bourne was dragged from the sea in The Bourne Identity, the amnesiac assassin returns in **Jason Bourne** with a vengeance in the fifth chapter of the action-packed cinema espionage saga.

Director Paul Greengrass and actor Matt Damon return to their roles behind and in front of the camera, providing consistency to a series that has frequently put the exploits of James Bond in the shade.

The latest instalment delivers breathlessly choreographed hand-to-hand combat, dizzying chases and a jaw-dropping sequence of automotive carnage along the Las Vegas strip that – unthinkably – trumps the thrilling resolution to The Bourne Supremacy.

Like the lead character, who has been slowly piecing together fragments of his tortuous past, Greengrass' film is lean, muscular and bruising for a fight – to the death if necessary. Jason Bourne (Damon) believes he knows how the US government moulded him into a trained killer as part of Operation Treadstone.

He is living off the grid on the border between Greece and Albania and posing as a bare-knuckle brawler.

Far away in Iceland, former contact Nicky Parsons (Julia Stiles) illegally accesses the Central Intelligence Agency's mainframe computer to download confidential files about Bourne's former life as David Webb.

She discovers a shocking secret and resolves to share the data with the elusive operative.

"We've just been hacked."

"Could be worse than Snowden," agent Craig Jeffers (Ato Essandoh) informs his boss, CIA Director Robert Dewey (Tommy Lee Jones), once the breach is detected.

Ambitious protégée Heather Lee (Alicia Vikander) plants

malware that allows her to covertly track Nicky's movements.

"I will deliver Parsons, the files and – if he's out there – I will give you Bourne too," Heather promises Dewey.

She dispatches a hit man, codename Asset (Vincent Cassel), to neutralise the targets.

Jason Bourne is a deceptive slow burn for the opening half hour. But once the script lights the fuse on the manifold deceptions, there's little time to breathe between plot revelations and bloodthirsty retractions.

Damon is in peak physical form for the gruelling action sequences and he tears at his character's heart as the past returns to haunt him once more. Oscar winner Vikander is a slippery adversary and she gels with a suitably strident Lee Jones as the man in power with plenty to hide.

Greengrass' ability to mastermind daredevil thrills on a grand scale never ceases to astound. This is replete with exploding Molotov cocktails, rampaging protesters and police brutality that seems to be escalating wildly out of control.

Buckle up for a white-knuckle two hours.



Alicia Vikander as Heather Lee and Matt Damon, above and below, as Jason Bourne



Cake Bookworm

Falling by Jane Green is published in hardback by Macmillan, priced £14.99 (ebook £7.59). Available now

MOVING to the suburbs and falling in love with a hunky man is a fantasy for many of us, but author Jane Green is proof of a success story. It's been 20 years since the former feature writer left journalism – and London – for America to work on her debut novel *Bookends*, and she has never looked back. Green's 18th book touches on the familiar themes of class wars, love and family: the protagonist Emma Montague swaps her upper-crust English life and dull boyfriend Rufus for a financial career in New York, before switching up from the Big Apple to a beach cottage in Westport, Connecticut like the author herself. Emma immediately falls in love with her landlord (just as Jane did), who is also a father to six-year-old son Jesse. Together, the new

couple have to learn to overcome their differences and deal with the curveballs life throws at them. *Falling*, also billed as *A Love Story*, is the perfect summer escapist read. *The Secrets Of Wishtide* by Kate Saunders is published in hardback by Bloomsbury, priced £14.99 (ebook £3.99)

MEET Laetitia Rodd, a widow in "reduced circumstances" who also happens to be an ace undercover private detective. The first novel in a new series by award-winning author and journalist Kate Saunders, this is a breath of fresh air. Set in the Victorian era, there are charming nods to history such as when Mrs Rodd makes rabbit pie or dons black silk for mourning. This case involves travelling to Wishtide in Lincolnshire, disguised as a governess, to investigate the background of a so-called "unsuitable" woman set to marry a rich man's heir. A deceptively gentle read, it's packed with pithy

observations about human nature and Mrs Rodd makes a genuinely likeable character you can't help but root for. Luckily, there are already plans for five more books in the Laetitia Rodd Mystery series. Can't wait.

Underground Airlines by Ben H. Winters is published in hardback by Century, priced £12.99 (ebook £7.99)

VICTOR'S latest mission is proving trickier than usual. A former slave catcher, he inhabits an America that's the same as the country we know today... only different. In this distorted present, the American Civil War never happened. Slavery – complete with horrifically modernised forms of incarceration and torture – still exists in a handful of Southern states known as the Hard Four. With abolitionists defeated, clandestine groups that free individuals provide the only glimmers of hope.

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& Abingdon areas and manager James Miller agrees that this approach is a major factor in its success.

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Oxfordshire Listings

Events

THURSDAY

Jewellery for hope: Vesey Room, Old Grammar School, Church View, Bampton. Unique pieces of jewellery handmade by Laura Hounam to raise funds for Against Breast Cancer. 11am. Free. 078163 33653.

Oxford's Great War – Family

Thursdays: Museum of Oxford, Oxford Town Hall, St Aldate's, Oxford. Join our volunteers and drop-in to find out about Oxford and First World War in our Oxford's Great War exhibition. Make your own soldier's medal and explore the exhibition with our gallery trail. 10.30am. Free. 01865 252334.

Rhythm and Dance: Rugrats and Halfpints, Beaumont Road, Banbury. 11am. Free with standard entrance price to centre. 01295 250060.

Story Book Pottery – The Selfish Crocodile: No Two Things, 120 Broadway, Didcot. Sit down at 1.30 and 3.45pm to listen to a children's book and then create a piece of pottery inspired by that week's story. A great activity for the little ones and their parents. Book now to avoid disappointment. £8. 01235 511550.

FRIDAY

Cogges Beer & Cider Festival: Cogges Manor Farm, Church Lane, Witney. More than 30 beers and ciders, music and food stalls. 6.30pm. £8 in advance or £10 on the door per night. 01993 772602.

Summer Trails and Activities: Museum of the History of Science, Broad Street, Oxford. Discover amazing instruments and devious devices: help yourself to trails and activities. Drop-in. 12pm. Free. 01865 277280.

SATURDAY

4get-me-not summer charity fundraiser: The Marlborough Club, Broadway, Didcot. A fun night to raise funds for The Alzheimer's Society. Tickets include music by a local band, The Event. There will be a raffle with prizes to include two F1 tickets to visit Williams at Grove to attend a VIP live race day, two archery beginner courses and many more. 7.30am. £20 per ticket. 0751047941.

Alzheimer's Society Summer Sale: St Nicolas Church, Market Place, Abingdon. 9.30am. 01235 521635.

Bicester and Kidlington Ramblers: Village Green, Upper Street, Quainton. Moderate 11-mile circular walk along part of the Bernwood Jubilee Way and via Claydon House. Picnic stop. Leaders Pam and Alf Wheeler. 10am. 07821 147891.

Drop In and Create: 5,4,3,2,1...

Action! (all ages): Cornerstone Arts Centre, 25 Station Road, Didcot. Inspired by the Shadowlight Artists exhibition in the gallery, creative activities will explore the moving image. These activities are unsupervised and designed for children and their adults to enjoy together. 10am. Free. 01235 515144.

Volunteer training – First Aid for Outdoor Activities: The Mix Community Space, 15 Mill Street, Wantage. Subsidised training for volunteers from local groups. Participants will receive a St John Ambulance certificate which is valid for three years. 10am. £5 per person. 07768 767787.

Walk (Fieldpaths): Church, Longworth. SU386994 5.5 miles. Meet at Longworth Church. A circular through Hinton Waldrist to Duxford (about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile along a quiet road), then following the Thames Path for two miles. Bring refreshments for en route break. Assistance dogs only. 10am. 07592 444612.

Witney Buttercross Sugarcraft

Club: Ducklington Village Hall, Ducklington. Jo Kettle will be demonstrating how to make Mrs Tiggynwinkle in sugar. 1pm. Members £3, visitors £5 (memberships available). 01993 705508.

Print, Project, Collect: Pitt Rivers Museum, Entry via Oxford University Museum of Natural History, Parks Road, Oxford. The second in a series of three afternoon workshops covering different aspects of photography, on the themes of photographic prints and printmaking, lantern slides and projection, and photography collections and collecting practices. 2pm. £16 (£40 for all three workshops). 01865 270927.

SUNDAY

Bingo in aid of Marie Curie Cancer Care: The Sherbourne Suite, Witney Four Pillars Hotel, Ducklington Lane, Witney. 6.30pm. 07754 271831.

Cogges Beer Festival Drink up Day: Cogges Manor Farm, Church Lane, Witney. 10am. £6/£4.50. 01993 772602.

Little Artist – Big Painting (ages 0-5 years): Cornerstone Arts Centre, 25 Station Road, Didcot. An outdoor experience in the town square for the under-fives and their families. Watch as the dancers create a larger than life painting, through a colourful mixture of dance, paint and music. There is an opportunity after each performance for the audience of little artists to create their own big painting with the dancers. 11am and 2pm. Pay what you think it's worth. 01235 515144.

Paul Morley 'The Age Of Bowie': Blackwell's Bookshop, 48-51 Broad Street, Oxford. Music journalist, band manager and one-time member of Art of Noise, Paul Morley will discuss his new biography of the late David Bowie. 7pm. £3. 01865 333623.

Summer Fun: Vale & Downland Museum, 19 Church Street, Wantage. Themed activities every week. Drop in anytime between 11am-3pm (there will be a break 12.30-1pm). 11am. Free but donations welcome. 01235 771447.

WEDNESDAY

Creative Science Workshop (ages 9-13 years): Cornerstone Arts Centre, 25 Station Road, Didcot. Create your own computer game, investigate with sweetie science and sculpt using modelling materials that you've made yourself. 10.30am. £20. 01235 515144.

Drop-in family event – Brilliant buttons: Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, Harrisons Lane, Woodstock. Design a button for a soldier (inspired by First World War archaeology). 2pm. Free for kids with a paying adult. 01993 811214.

Walk (Fieldpaths): Charlbury Station, Charlbury. SP353195 8 miles. Meet at Charlbury Rail Station, fee payable. Possible train from Oxford, please check timetable. Alternative parking at the Spendlove Centre car park, and walk to station. A walk through parkland, woodland and river valley with panoramic views. Can be muddy. Bring a snack, or the Plough Inn at Finstock. Assistance dogs only. Joe Coulson. 10am. 01993 878079.

Summer Sundays Cream Teas: The Reading Room, The Green, Combe. 2.30pm. £4.50 for cream tea (cake, scone and tea). 01993 898348.

MONDAY

Marine Week Talk: Sutton Courtenay Environmental Education Centre, Sutton Courtenay Road, Sutton Courtenay. Judith Hartley will talk about her experiences in Greece working to conserve the endangered Loggerhead Turtle. Mark Bradfield will be telling us about his exploits swimming with sharks and why we should consider them more endangered than dangerous. 7pm. £4 per person. 01235 862024.

Mums Meet Mondays: Rugrats and Halfpints, Beaumont Road, Banbury. 9.30am. £1 per child. 01295 250060.

TUESDAY

2121 (Abingdon) Sqn Air Training Corps: 2121 (Abingdon) Sqn premises, Wootton Road, Whitecross, Abingdon. A youth organisation with adventure training, sports, gliding and flying. The Sqn meets twice a week. 7.15pm. £8 per

To get an event of any kind listed here, enter the details into our easy-to-use online database at thisisoxfordshire.co.uk/events

Please add your event no later than ten days before the day of publication.

month. 01235 538955.

Abingdon Flower Club: Northcourt Centre, Northcourt Road, Abingdon. A demonstration entitled 'My Life In Flowers' by Julia Russet. 7pm. £7.50 for visitors, members free. 01865 378758.

Book Group Night: Cornerstone Arts Centre, 25 Station Road, Didcot. 7.30pm. Free. 01235 515144.

Dance Explorers (summer holiday workshop for ages 6-12): Cornerstone Arts Centre, 25 Station Road, Didcot. No dance experience necessary. Please wear clothes you can move around in and bare feet. 10.30am. £14. 01235 515144.

Paul Morley 'The Age Of Bowie': Blackwell's Bookshop, 48-51 Broad Street, Oxford. Music journalist, band manager and one-time member of Art of Noise, Paul Morley will discuss his new biography of the late David Bowie. 7pm. £3. 01865 333623.

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MUSIC

THURSDAY

Methodist Church, High Street, Witney: Luncheon Recital – Shakespeare, The Great Fire of London and Capability Brown. Bethany Partridge, soprano, Archie Bott, baritone, Annabel Molyneaux, mezzo-soprano, Peter Cowdry, piano, Paul Molyneaux, poetry. Free. 12.30pm. 01993 702296.

St Frideswide's Church, Botley Road, Osney: Recital. Helen Atkinson (lute/soprano). £5. Includes a glass of wine and nibbles. 7.30pm. 01865 722070.

The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford: Reverend Peyton's Big Damn Band, Eric Sommer. Old time blues band. 7.30pm. £15 (adv), £17 (otd).

FRIDAY

Angel, Market Square, Witney: Nikki Petherick. Free. 9pm. 01993 703238.

Carterton Social Centre, Brownes Lane, Carterton: Country & Western

Dance with Montana Country Band. £6. 8.30pm. 01993 850682.

East Oxford Community Centre, 44 Princes Street, Oxford: Summer Jam unplugged. £5/£4 (concs). 7.30pm. 07986 888545.

Exeter College Chapel, Turl Street, Oxford: Baroque Music by Candlelight: Le Roi Danse. £17, £15 (seniors), £10 (students). 8pm. 01865 305305.

The Northcourt, Northcourt Road, Abingdon: The Floyd Effect – The Pink Floyd Tribute Show. £15-£17 (otd). 7.30pm. 01235 856076.

The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford: Honky, Desert Storm, Queasy, My Diablo, The Reaper. Metal/hard rock. 8pm. £10 (adv), £12 (otd).

The Cellar, Frewin Court, Oxford: The Ed Rome Band, Count Skylarkin. Vintage ska, reggae and rocksteady. 10pm. £5.

The Wheatsheaf, 129 High Street, Oxford: Molotov Sexbomb, Broosphine, Shotgun Six. Indie & alt rock. 7.45pm. £6 (otd).

The Jericho Tavern, 56 Walton Street, Oxford: Kanada, Coldredlight, Third Lung. Indie rock. 7.30pm. £4.

SATURDAY

St Peter's Church, Thames Street, Wallingford: Hugo Wiggin (saxophone) and James Sherlock (piano). £14 or £12 paid in advance. 8pm. 01491 824792.

Marston Royal British Legion, Hadow Road, Marston: Rough Cut. Free. 8pm. 01865 243991.

St Denys' Church, Church Green, Stanford in the Vale: An English Serenade. Features The New Oxford Trio. £12. 7.30pm. 01367 718420.

The Wheatsheaf, High Street, Oxford: Art Theete, Shrinking Violets, Charlie Leavy. £4.50, cheaper advance. 8.20pm. 01865 395327.

The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford: The Hope Burden, Stolby, le Pub, Mark Cope. Instrumental post rock & blues rock. 7pm. £6.

Black Swan, Crown Street, Oxford: The Mighty Redox. All original psycho-electric rock. 8pm. Free.

02 Academy Oxford, 190 Cowley Road, Oxford: Bloodshot, Infurious, Contek, A Nightmare Upon Us. Metal/hard rock. 6.30pm.

The Library Pub, 182 Cowley Road, Oxford: Girl Power, Scrap Brain, Basic Dicks. Punk. 8pm. Free.

Woodstock Social Club, 44 Oxford Street, Woodstock: Mac & Desperado. Country and Western. 8.30pm. Free. 01993 812094.

SUNDAY

Exeter College Chapel, Turl Street, Oxford: Harpsichord Recital by Candlelight: Fancies & Caprices. £14, £12 (seniors), £10 (students). 8pm. 01865 305305.

Oxford Wine Café, 38 South Parade, Summertown: Josephine Arthur Trio. Vocals, piano and bass. 6.30pm. Free.

The Wheatsheaf, 129 High Street, Oxford: Johnny's Sexual Kitchen, Sal & Tony, Osprey, Purple May, Song&Supper, Freemantle. 3.30-9pm. Free.

All Saints' Church, Church Street, Sutton Courtenay: Summer Spotlights. Grand Finale of 2016 Parish Proms, with Lynne Winter (soprano) and the Spotlight Entertainers. £6.50 (student £4); season pass £28/£16. 6pm. 07788 715873.

MONDAY

The Royal Blenheim, 13 St Ebbes Street, Oxford: Open Mic hosted by Scott Gordon. 8pm. Free.

TUESDAY

Exeter College Chapel, Turl Street, Oxford: Baroque Music by Candlelight: Salve Regina. £18, £16 (seniors), £10 (students). 8pm. 01865 305305.

The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford: Guitar Summit. Jazz at the Bully. 8.30pm. Free.

The Half Moon, 18 St Clements, Oxford: Time Is Of The Essence. Jazz quartet. 9pm. Free.

WEDNESDAY

All Saints' Church, Lime Walk, Oxford: All Saints' Summer Festival Of Music & The Arts 2016. Aileen Thomson, soprano. Free admission. 8pm. 07941 724326.

Blackwell's Bookshop, 48-51 Broad Street, Oxford: The Bookshop Band. Original songs with score and lyrics inspired by books. £6. 7pm. 01865 333623.

Exeter College Chapel, Turl Street, Oxford: Baroque Music by Candlelight: A Musical Offering. £17, £15 (seniors), £10 (students). 8pm. 01865 305305.

THEATRE

Burton Taylor Studio, Beaumont Street, Oxford: Jul 29-30, BT Comedy Club. Featuring Kate Smurthwaite, Becky Moore, Conor McReynolds, Moj Taylor, Terry Green and James Stevenson. 7.30pm. £10 (£8). 01865 305305.

Glee Club, Hythe Bridge Street, Oxford: Jul 30, Andrew Ryan, Paul Tonkinson and Andy Robinson. 7.15pm. £14.50. Aug 6, Scott Bennett and Rob Hughes. 7.15pm. £14.50. 0871 472 04007.

Oxford Castle, New Road, Oxford: Until Jul 30, *The Tempest*. 7.30pm. £15 adults, £13 concessions. Aug 1-13, *Macbeth & A Midsummer Night's Dream*. BMH's hour-long versions of Shakespeare's tragedy and comedy. 7pm. £15, £13 concs. 01865 260666.

Pegasus Theatre, Magdalen Road, Oxford: Aug 7, Funday Sunday Puppets Go Wild. *Rosie's Grow Show*. 11am and 2pm. £5 all tickets. 01865 812150.

Multiple locations, Becket Street, Oxford: Until Jul 30, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Creation Theatre will take audiences on an immersive interactive adventure in small groups across multiple locations. 7.30pm. £24. 01865 766266.

Old Fire Station, 40 George Street, Oxford: Jul 30, *Circleville, Circlevally*. 2.30pm and 7.30pm. £12, £10. Aug 5, *High As Sugar*. Inspired by the real life of late Warhol Superstar, Holly Woodlawn, a one-person musical about a trans woman in 1970, New York City. 8pm. £12, £10. 7.30pm. £11.50-£24. 01865 305305.

Old School Quadrangle, Bodleian Library, Oxford: Until Jul 31, *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*. Globe Theatre On Tour. 7.45pm. £24 (£22). 01865 305305.

Oxford University Parks, Parks Road, Oxford: Until Aug 13, *Hamlet*. Creation Theatre. 7.30pm. £22 to £27. 01865 766266.

The Gardens of Wadham College, Parks Road, Oxford: Until Aug 18, *Love's Labour's Lost*. 7.30pm. £18-£23 (Previews June 28-30 £13). 0844 879 4418.

Broughton Castle, Banbury: Jul 30, Listen. Sunstone Theatre Company. 8pm. £4/£3. Jul 31, *Shakespeare 400 and a half years later*. Banbury Youth Theatre. 8pm. £4/£3.

Cornerstone Arts Centre, 25 Station Road, Didcot: Jul 30, *The Last Post*. Outdoor. 11am and 2pm. £12.50. 01235 515144.

CakeSport

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Luke Ryan took four late wickets to help Banbury beat Burnham in Division 1 of the Home Counties Premier League

Ryan shines for Banbury

Spinner takes late wickets to deny Burnham

LUKE Ryan proved the hero in taking four late wickets to help Banbury earn a 24-run win over Burnham in the Home Counties Premier League.

The north Oxon side elected to bat, posting 213 with Hugo Darby top-scoring with 57 in the Division 1 clash.

But with the visitors on 186-6, Banbury were facing defeat, only for Ryan (4-22) to step up to the challenge.

Darby, helped by Ed Phillips (51), guided the hosts to 101-3 before his dismissal.

Richard West contributed 55 in partnerships with

Phillips and Ryan to help Banbury to 202-6.

But when he fell, the tail crumbled.

Raminder Singh (44) and Aftab Khan (40) helped put Burnham more than in contention.

But when Ryan dismissed Khan, the match swung in the hosts' favour.

Despite a 36-run stand, the last four wickets fell for just three runs, with Ryan doing most of the damage.

BURNHAM

H Darby c Ahmed b Khan.....	57
O Clarke c Rehman b Singh.....	5
C Haupt c Rehman b Haroon.....	15
L Sabin lbw Malik.....	0
E Phillips c Gandom b Khan.....	51
R West c Ahmed b Malik.....	55
L Ryan c Gandom b Malik.....	17
K Penhale run out.....	2

Banbury 25pts, Burnham 7

Janes brace seals victory for Puritans

FOUR goals in 15 second-half minutes guided Banbury United to a 4-2 win over Hednesford Town in pre-season.

Mark Janes (2), Mark Bell and Felipe Barcelos were all on the scoresheet as Mike Ford's men continued their preparations for the Evo-Stik Southern League Premier Division.

Danny Glover had given Hednesford a first-half lead, but Banbury were quick out of the blocks after the break.

They were 2-1 up after just ten minutes of the second half, with Janes netting from Bell and Darius Browne crosses.

On 52 minutes it was 3-1 as Bell found the bottom corner.

Liam Molesworth immediately pulled a goal back, but Banbury grabbed their fourth on 66 minutes, with Barcelos slotting home.

The Puritans have now won three games in a row, following their 2-1 victories over Brackley Town and Easington Sports.

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ARIES

Mar 21-Apr 19

You are taking on a whole new personality one I have seen. Please think twice about how you talk to loved ones. Your words will be carrying far more weight than you may imagine. A work matter midweek will demand a professional attitude. Ring now so I can help you to adopt one.

0906 585 4360

TAURUS

Apr 20-May 20

A problem that you have experienced with a friend is being blown out of all proportion and you must ask yourself if you would expect to be judged so harshly, should the situation be reversed. You may regret any sentence you cast on close ones when this very harsh mood has passed. Ring now to hear what I think is really behind your attitude.

0906 585 4361

GEMINI

May 21-Jun 20

Close ones are interfering in what you thought to be personal matters, they are only trying to show you how much they care for you and you must not take offence. The tricky aspect that is occurring this week between Saturn and Venus is going to be making it easy for you to get the wrong end of the stick. Ring now for an alternative view.

0906 585 4362

CANCER

Jun 21-Jul 22

You don't appear to have the cash you need to proceed with some rather exotic plans. There are alternatives Cancer, but a stubborn mood does not seem to allow you to see that. If you can listen carefully, then you can learn of some new opportunities opening up in a field of work that you have long wanted to be involved in. Ring now for insight.

0906 585 4363

LEO

Jul 23-Aug 22

If you have to work over the weekend, so be it. I'm sure you will make up for any fun you have missed out on later in the week, but please don't leave any business matters unfinished or you may have to pay later. Take a new relationship at a slow pace, there is much to be learnt and enjoyed by biding your time my friend. Ring now for more advice.

0906 585 4364

VIRGO

Aug 23-Sep 22

Rumours heard in the workplace look to be true, as you discover at last just what options are and are not available to you. An offer from a rival company of some sort is not as straightforward as it first seemed, so be careful whom you tell. Call now to hear why I know you have all the commitment you desire coming your way.

0906 585 4365

PISCES

Feb 19-Mar 20

This is a very emotional time for you and you may find yourself saying things that you know deep down you don't really mean. If you are trying to test a loved one's loyalty, then don't bother. I can assure you, they wouldn't be with you if they didn't care. Money matters are perplexing, but should be made clearer by Friday. Ring now to reveal a secret.

LIBRA

Sep 23-Oct 22

You are going to do some very clever research if you are to obtain the extra funds that you are seeking. You and a loved one may be at loggerheads over something that you feel very strongly about, but you are going to have to give a little if you are to leave them room to apologise. Ring now to hear who can't get you off their mind.

0906 585 4366

SCORPIO

Oct 23-Nov 21

The stars are going to be giving you the upper hand so that you may sort out the differences you have been experiencing with a loved one. You want control, yet you long to be dominated so it is no wonder close ones get confused. You must try to think a little more before you speak. Ring now to hear why it may be best to listen on Wednesday.

0906 585 4367

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 22-Dec 21

The changes you are dealing with are going to be a lot longer in arriving I'm afraid. You will experience lots of delays and limitations on this week. The stars will be revealing our selfish natures on Tuesday as we say and do what we want and not what others are waiting for. Don't hold your breath for a phone call. Ring now to hear how this could be a blessing.

0906 585 4368

CAPRICORN

Dec 22-Jan 19

You don't know what to do about the mess that your life appears to have gotten into. Well, whatever your plan, the answer is nothing until this difficult phase has passed. Keep your mind on your own life and arrangements and not on those of others and you will find out the facts that you seem so determined to uncover. Ring now to reveal passion.

0906 585 4369

AQUARIUS

Jan 20-Feb 18

Stop pushing a work contact for information that you are not even sure they have. You have more power at your fingertips than you realise and a task that you are going to be asked to perform will prove just that on Thursday, so hold fire and keep your cool or you will miss the opportunity that you have been waiting for. Ring now for clarity in love.

0906 585 4370

PISCES

Feb 19-Mar 20

This is a very emotional time for you and you may find yourself saying things that you know deep down you don't really mean. If you are trying to test a loved one's loyalty, then don't bother. I can assure you, they wouldn't be with you if they didn't care. Money matters are perplexing, but should be made clearer by Friday. Ring now to reveal a secret.

Independent Retailer Month

Pledge to shop locally for your 'indie' retailers

SMALL shops and businesses are getting a chance to shine this month during Independent Retailer Month. Times are tough for small businesses competing with national chains and online retailers but there is still a thriving independent retail scene in Banbury.

Independent Retailer Month is a national event held in July which aims to persuade people of the benefits of buying from local retailers.

It highlights the important contribution they make to the community, the local economy and the retail sector.

According to research, for every £1 spent locally, between 50p and 70p recirculates back into the local economy. But for every £1 spent out of town or online, just 5p trickles back to the local community.

By convincing people to buy from local retailers, the initiative aims to change shopping habits long term and increase footfall in high streets and village centres.

J'DCruz Bags in Parsons Street, Banbury, sells leather handbags sourced, printed and crafted in Oxfordshire. The business has just won Best



INDEPENDENT: J'DCruz Bags won the Best New Business Award in the Cherwell Business Awards

New Business Award in the Cherwell Business Awards 2016.

Owner Jasmine D'Cruz said: "I have found trading in Banbury fantastic and the local support is continuing to grow. Without being a local designer and having that support I feel it would be a lot harder."

"Shopping independently is important to me because it means being a part of something and creating a community."

"For my customers I feel that they really enjoy the fact of seeing where things are being made and the fact that they can have a hands-

on approach. It's also from my point of view really nice to be able to make small changes that can make big differences, for example if a shape of a bag needs slightly changing or modifying I can implement it overnight, where as if I was under a big brand this would be harder to achieve."

Support for Independent Retail, the organisation behind Independent Retailer Month, is dedicated to raising awareness of the importance of local businesses.

It provides support, advice, ideas and inspiration to help retailers stay open

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

- ▲ Shop in small, independent stores as much as possible during July.
- ▲ Search for local independent shops on the retailer database at independenteretailmonth.co.uk
- ▲ Promote your favourite local businesses by writing a review and sharing on social media
- ▲ Follow the campaign on Twitter @ IndieRetail to find out what's happening in your area

for business. Its website features a free Independent Shops Directory where shoppers can search for small businesses.

There are free resources which business owners can download on the site, including Independent Retailer Month posters to display in-store throughout July.

Shops are encouraged to record videos to promote their business and products or services. Sharing positive customer feedback on social media is another way retailers can spread the word about the benefits of buying locally.



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OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14(1)**

Notice of Temporary Traffic Order

Wiggington Heath Crossroads

Prohibition of Vehicles

Date of Order: 25 July 2016

Coming into force: 4 August 2016

This Order is being introduced because of carriageway repairs which are anticipated to take 26 days to complete. The effect of the Order is to temporarily prohibit any vehicle proceeding or waiting in Wiggington Heath Crossroads, for approximately 150m in each direction. Appropriate traffic signs will be displayed to indicate when the measures are in force. Exemptions are included for emergency services and for the works and for access to premises which are only accessible from the closed section of road. The alternative route for traffic (forming a circular route running clockwise) is via: B4035 Main St – Tadmarton Rd – Cumberland Hill – A361 South Newington Rd – Blomham Rd – Main Rd – Station Rd – East End – Sibford Rd – Hook Norton Rd – Main St – B4035 – Swalcliffe Rd, or vice-versa. This Order will remain in force for a maximum period of 18 months or until the works have been completed whichever is the sooner.

Traffic Regulation Team (Ref:T4358/AC) on behalf of the Director for Environment & Economy, Speedwell House, Oxford OX1 1NE. 0845 310 1111

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One of the homes at Taylor Wimpey's Bourne View site in Hook Norton; right, David and Anu Green with daughter Mia

Builder gave couple a helping hand with move

A NORTH Oxfordshire couple say they're happy to have swapped their old house for a new one at Bourne View in Hook Norton.

David and Anu Green owned a three-bedroom cottage in Long Compton but wanted more space.

With daughter Mia, they are now in a four-bedroom detached Shelford-style home on the new Taylor Wimpey development.

Gill Oliver
gill.oliver@nqo.com

Mr Green said: "We had an old cottage before moving here, so our main reason for relocating was to gain more space."

"We now have four double bedrooms, which is ideal as Anu also has two other children who live in Finland, so we have two spare

bedrooms to accommodate them when they come to visit."

Mr Green said they both liked the open-plan living area.

He added: "The property is charming and the fact that it's more energy-efficient and has great build quality also really appealed to us, so we can have the best of both worlds."

The couple had a chance to personalise the property with various

interior design and build options.

Part of what persuaded them to buy, according to Mr Green, was Bourne View's rural setting plus Hook Norton's local facilities such as its shops, pubs and school.

And the couple also received help moving house from developer Taylor Wimpey.

Mr Green added: "Buying a house is always stressful but the team helped

to make it as simple as possible.

"Even when the sale of our old property wasn't straightforward, they were really understanding and happy to help.

"They even helped us unload the van when we were moving in."

Prices at Bourne View start from £295,000 for a three-bedroom property and four-bedroom properties cost from £375,000.

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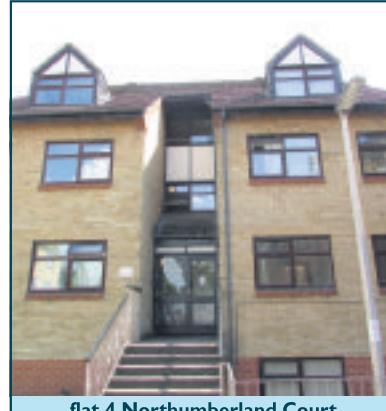
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11 Verney Road

A new to the market two bedroom apartment situated within walking distance to the town centre and train station. Spacious living accommodation. The master bedroom benefits from an ensuite shower room also. Allocated parking. EPC Rating C

£775



flat 4 Northumberland Court

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Martin and Co Banbury are pleased to present, this 3 storey town house, situated next to the canal and close to town centre. The property comprises; two reception rooms, three double bedrooms, two bathrooms, kitchen and decked area to the rear of the property. Allocated parking. EPC Rating C

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3 Newbold Close

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£795



46 Centre Street

Martin & Co are pleased to present a spacious four bedroom mid-terrace property situated in Grimsbury within walking distance to the town centre and train station. The property comprises two reception rooms; kitchen; upstairs there are four bedrooms on 2 split levels. The master bedroom benefits from an ensuite bathroom. EPC Rating D.

£975



1b Crouch Street

Martin & Co are pleased to present a new to the market one bedroom studio apartment situated conveniently for the town centre and train station. The property comprises an open plan kitchen and living area. There is also a separate bathroom with shower. The property is available unfurnished and would suit ideally a single professional. EPC rating C

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51 Earlstone Close

Martin & Co are pleased to present a very spacious two bedroom semi-detached house. The property is available unfurnished. The property comprises entrance hall; separate kitchen with cooker; living room and rear garden with shed. Upstairs there are two double bedrooms and bathroom with bath and electric power shower over. EPC Rating D

£725



5f George Street

Martin & Co are pleased to present a new to the market two bedroom spacious apartment with roof terrace. The property comprises open plan kitchen living room; two double bedrooms and bathroom with bath and shower. The property is conveniently situated for the town centre and train station and is available unfurnished. EPC Rating E.

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83 Delapre Drive

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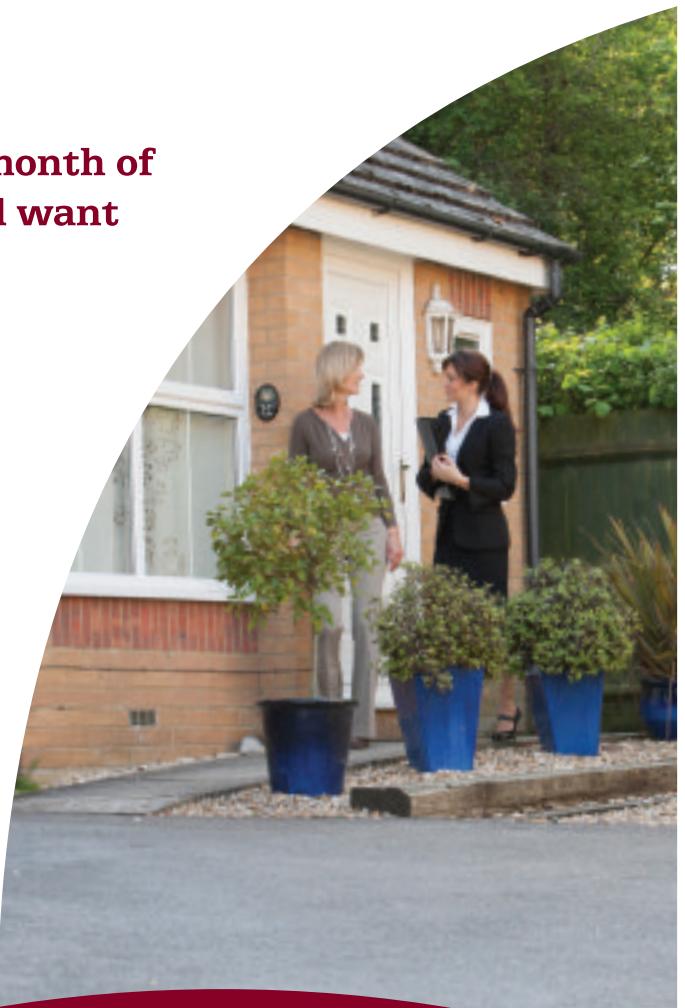
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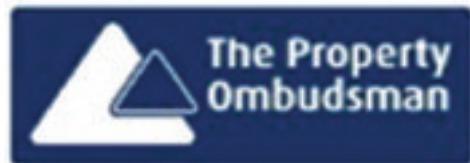


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Motors - first for new cars

New Car Road Test

The definitive view
by Andy Enright



Nissan Navara picks up the pace



NISSAN are promising the NP300 Navara pick-up will offer significantly improved refinement and performance whilst remaining a dependable workhorse. More efficient engines, suppler suspension and a greater sense of style promise to appeal to commercial and private buyers alike. Add in reduced emissions and it seems Nissan are in with a shout of class leadership.

Background

Nissan have been proudly promoting their pick-up heritage during the release of this much improved Navara model. That's no surprise considering the Japanese brand first produced such a vehicle over eighty years ago. The Navara nameplate isn't quite so old, dating back to the year 1997 and marking the first modern Nissan pick-up that didn't just appeal to those after a working vehicle. Indeed, with pick-ups popular as alternatives to SUVs, refinement is more important than ever.

With that in mind, Nissan have been hard at work developing a new 2.3-litre turbodiesel engine that is smoother, quieter and cleaner than the old 2.5-litre unit. It also manages to be more powerful, yet more efficient too. There's also a totally redesigned rear suspension set-up for the family-friendly Double Cab model that promises improved han-

dling and a more comfortable ride without sacrificing its off road or load carrying ability.

Driving Experience

The Navara's 2.3-litre dCi turbodiesel is available in two different power outputs; 160PS or 190PS. The lower powered of the two is standard equipment on Double Cab models and the only option on everything else. The 190PS version is reserved for the Double Cab only and makes its extra power through a second turbocharger that can provide additional boost to the engine.

Two wheel drive is an option for King Cab (two seat) models, while 4WD is standard on all other variants. The standard gearbox is a six-speed manual item, while a seven-speed automatic is an option but again, this is reserved for the Double Cab model only.

Design and Build

There was a time where pick-ups were square-edged things that you could never call stylish. Mitsubishi's L200 bucked the trend with its curves proving a hit with buyers. With this in mind, Nissan has been more daring with this improved Navara while incorporating its latest 'V-motion' grille and boomerang shaped daylight running lights. Whether you choose this vehicle in double cab or king

cab guise, gone are the sharp creases and flat panels of the previous model, having been replaced by curves and contours. From the confident nose rearwards, it looks much more modern while retaining a tough edge.

Market and Model

Prices start at around £18,500 ex VAT and there are five trim levels available for the NP300 Navara; entry level 'Visia', 'Acenta', 'Acenta+', 'N-Connecta' and 'Tekna' at the top of the range. 'Visia' is the only option on the Chassis Cab and 2WD King Cab while 'Tekna' is only for Double Cab models. 'Visia' is very much a working man's trim level with steel wheels, black bumpers and mirrors along with no air-con. You do get a Bluetooth stereo with USB and aux in, electric windows and cruise control though. 'Acenta' includes manual air-con, alloys, chrome mirrors and grille along with a sunglasses holder. 'N-Connecta' (likely to be a popular choice) adds dual zone climate control, heated door mirrors, bigger alloys, fog lamps, rear view camera and leather for the wheel, handbrake and gearknob.

'Tekna' is where a lot of the clever stuff comes in such as Nissan's handy 'Around View Monitor' that gives a virtual bird's eye view of the truck, rear parking sensors,

LED headlights with daytime running lights, 7" touchscreen with sat-nav and Bluetooth audio streaming and roof rails.

Cost of Ownership

As to be expected in this day and age, downsizing and weight loss has been key to improving the Navara's running costs. Thanks in part to being 200cc smaller than the old model's engine, emissions have taken a tumble, while fuel economy is better than ever. While a 2WD King Cab produces the best figures - 44.9mpg on the combined cycle and 167g/km of CO₂ - it's the 4WD Double Cab that will be the volume seller we suspect. Opt for one of those and you'll see a slight increase in emissions to 169g/km while economy falls to 44.1mpg on the combined cycle. Interestingly, this combined figure is the same regardless of power output.

Summary

Nissan's NP300 Navara goes up against some tough recently revitalised rivals - primarily Mitsubishi's L200 and the Ford Ranger. In comparison to these two key competitors, this Nissan's clever five-link rear axle could give a clear advantage for those looking for a more car-like driving experience. With no penalty on load capacity or towing ability, it could be the stand-out fea-

ture on this much improved pick-up.

That could mean little if this NP300 was ugly, or worse, dull. With looks so important, Nissan should be commended for modernising the design without losing the butch appeal of the old model. It won't just be the more efficient engine that helps with running costs either: standard fit autonomous emergency braking not only makes the truck safe, it should help reduce insurance premiums too. As an overall package, the NP300 will be hard to beat.

Facts at a glance

MODEL:	Nissan Navara NP300
PRICES:	£22,000 - £30,800
INSURANCE GROUP:	9E-T2 - 12-E-T2
CO₂ EMISSIONS:	169g/km (Double Cab 4WD)
PERFORMANCE:	0-62mph TBC / Max Speed 114mph (190PS Double Cab)
FUEL CONSUMPTION: (combined)	44.1mpg (190PS Double Cab)
STANDARD SAFETY FEATURES:	Airbags, ABS, traction control, stability control, auto braking.
WILL IT FIT IN YOUR GARDEN?	Length/Width/Height 5225/2085/1840mm (Double Cab)
WHO TO SEE:	http://www.nissan.co.uk

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Motors - first for used cars

Used Car Road Test

by Jonathan Crouch



Clio rebooted and improved



IMPROVEMENTS to the third generation Renault Clio in 2009 aimed to keep it at the forefront of the British supermini sector, with sportier styling complementing a sensible mix of practical small car virtues. At its heart though, it remains very simply safe, spacious and affordable. Will that be enough to tempt supermini buyers looking for an affordable alternative in the used car market? Let's find out.

The History
Within just 36 months of being voted the 2006 European Car of the Year, Renault's third generation Clio had been swamped by the frantic pace of development in the supermini sector. Such is the current state of the market. The French maker's response early in 2009 was this far-reaching facelift, offering up an improved range of fuel-efficient engines, a smarter cabin and more striking styling.

So good was the basic design that not much more than that was required to take this model back to a place amongst the small car class leaders. Entry-level models cost less than some equivalent tiny city

runabouts. Flagship Renaultsport hot hatch variants out-perform some pricey sportscars. And the Sport Tourer estate version might be a slightly more palatable alternative to that supermini-MPV you didn't really want. The idea was to keep Renault very competitive in a market that simply won't stand for second best. Here's what to look for when buying used.

First shown at the 2009 Geneva Show, the revised Clio was an instant hit. A Renaultsport 200 model followed hot on the heels of the standard car, with a World Series limited edition arriving in UK dealers in July 2009. This was followed by the I-Music model at the end of the year with the Clio Gordini 200 debuting in summer 2010. Renault wasn't done there, with a Silverstone GP model appearing in 2011 and a Raider version at the tail end of 2011. An all-new Clio 4 model was unveiled in summer 2012.

What To Look For

This second phase Clio III sports a cabin that's a good deal better screwed together and made of

more durable materials than its rather reedy predecessor. It also runs on largely tried and tested mechanics, so Renault has lessened the risk of problems cropping up quite cleverly. The racy 200 model aside, the Clio has also escaped the boy racer brigade. The 200 is a very different kettle of fish and thrives on being driven within an inch of its life, so be a little more careful here.

Check tyres, exhausts and front suspension alignment carefully and try to establish if the previous keeper was diligent in the car's upkeep.

On The Road

It's perfectly possible, if you can stretch to one of the Renaultsport 200 models, to buy yourself a Clio that handles like a go-kart, but that's not the kind of experience on offer from the more affordable variants in the range that most people end up buying. Which is just as well. By and large, you don't want your shopping runabout to feel like a go-kart on the kind of pock-marked roads we have to put up with in this country: instead,

what's needed is a well-judged blend of control and comfort, a smooth ride and plenty of grip - all of which this car provides.

The ride quality is a particular selling point of this model: quite simply, you feel you're at the wheel of something much bigger and more sophisticated, particularly when you've larger mileages to cover. This was one of the first superminis to hit the market that you could quite comfortably use on very long as well as very short journeys. It still remains one of the finest cars of its kind in this respect, so it's a pity from Renault's point of view that this won't be an especially high priority for most buyers.

As for the engines on offer, the 110bhp 1.6-litre VVT petrol unit introduced with this facelift will likely be of minority interest, which is just as well since you have to work it hard for rapid progress and refinement isn't its strong suit.

Since the same applies to the rather feeble entry-level 75bhp 1.2-litre petrol unit, we'd suggest you focus your attentions on either the impressive 100bhp 1.2 TCe turbo-

charged petrol engine or the 1.5-litre diesel with its 86 and 106bhp outputs. Both can be recommended: the petrol unit manages the impressive feat of combining 50mpg economy with an 11s 0-60mph sprint time, while the diesel unit's prodigious pulling power makes it feel even faster.

Overall

If you've been a bit nervous about buying a used French hatch before on the grounds of reliability and build quality, maybe it's worth taking a look at this facelifted Clio III.

Facelifted cars in general are often a good used purchase as all of the mechanical issues that affect new from-the-ground-up models tend to have been ironed out and the build workflow at the factories is usually optimised to produce a well screwed together car. I'd recommend the utterly brilliant Renaultsport models without hesitation, but if you need something a bit less manic, the Dynamique TomTom trims are well worth seeking out, especially when paired with the 1.2 TCe engine.



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Motors - first for new cars

New Car Launch Model Of The Week

by Jonathan Crouch



Audi's sensible engineering



Ten Second Review

This improved MK3 model A3 shows Audi at its slick, intelligent best. Its styling might still be low key and the engineering eminently sensible, but there's now a polish to this vehicle that escapes virtually all of its rivals. Efficiency and economy are excellent by class standards, especially when it comes to a much improved range of petrol engines. And some of the high-tech options available are extremely tempting.

Background

Audi's A3 has always been a car marked out by its quiet confidence. You don't buy one if you're an attention seeker or want to show off quite how much money you've spent. Instead, it's a premium compact hatch that blends in with real panache. Owners like that and so do we.

Driving Experience

Lots of changes have been made on the petrol engine front, the range now beginning with a downsized 115PS 1.0-litre TFSI unit that, nonetheless, still generates a useful 200Nm of torque. Next up is the more family 1.4 TFSI COD engine with 150PS and the efficiency of its clever 'Cylinder-on-Demand' technology. If you want more power, then the next step is a 2.0 TFSI unit

this a new engine featuring 190PS and an innovative new combustion process. It can be ordered with a freshly developed 7-speed S tronic auto gearbox and there's the option of quattro 4WD. Near the top of the range, the S3 hot hatch also gets 2.0 TFSI power - in this case with power upped by 10PS to a 310PS total.

The diesel line-up is more familiar from before, things kicking off with the usual 1.6-litre TDI powerplant developing 110PS and offered with either manual or S tronic dual-clutch automatic transmission.

Above that sits the consistently popular 2.0-litre TDI unit, available, as usual, with either 150 or 190PS and the normal transmission choices. Top diesels also get the quattro option. The Sportback e-tron petrol/electric Plug-in hybrid variant continues on for those with an eye on their tax status.

Design and Build

Exterior changes to the A3 are slight but the front looks a little more purposeful, courtesy of sharper lines for the familiar and now broader Singleframe grille. The headlights are flatter, with distinctive outer contours and can now be ordered in Matrix LED form, so they are significantly brighter and constantly adapt themselves to avoid dazzling other road users, plus of course they never need to be dipped.

Equally subtle changes at the rear aim to accentuate the width of this car - with the horizontal illuminated graphics of the rear lights and the separation edge above the redesigned diffuser.

Market and Model

Pricing is much as before, which means that it sits mainly in the £18,000 to £30,000 bracket expected for premium compact hatches. As usual, there's the option of both three and five-door hatchbacks, plus saloon and cabriolet bodystyles. The key option with this improved model is the clever 'Virtual Cockpit' system replacing the conventional instrument dials with an eye-catching 12.3-inch TFT display. But of course, there's much else to select from.

As for infotainment, well Audi reckons that this improved A3 sets fresh standards here. An 'MMI radio plus' set-up with an electrically extending 7-inch diagonal monitor is standard, while the 'MMI navigation' system is fitted from 'SE Technik' trim upwards. Go further and specify the 'MMI touch' in conjunction with the Audi connect package (what a mouthful!) and you can have many online functions in your A3 at high speed via the super-fast LTE standard. They include, for example, navigation with Google Earth

and Google Street View traffic information in real time, as well as practical information on parking, destinations, news or the weather.

Mobile phones with iOS and Android operating systems can now be connected with the car via the standard Audi smartphone interface.

Cost of Ownership

Forgive us if you've heard this script before, but the latest A3 is quicker, more economical and emits less carbon dioxide than its predecessor. It will also challenge the very best in class for residual values. So much, so predictable. The usual drill now is to quote the faintly unbelievable economy figure of the most economical diesel model in the range to underscore that point, but petrol buyers are in for a treat with the 1.0-litre TFSI engine. Expect over 60mpg combined fuel economy and CO2 emissions getting down towards 100g/km.

Although Audi will roll out even more fuel efficient diesels in the future, the current 2.0-litre TDI 150PS unit is no slouch. In the combined cycle test it covered 68.9mpg - equivalent to CO2 emissions of just 108g/km. The A3 range also encompasses a 1.6 TDI engine, promising 74.3mpg potential with CO2 emissions of just 99g/km. If you want to go further, then the Plug-in petrol

electric Sportback e-tron hybrid continues on at the top of the range with its 176mpg and 37g/km CO2 capability.

Summary

The A3 serves a need and serves it very well. The latest model is, by any reasonable measure, a smart, admirable and technically brilliant thing. The intelligent people who will buy it will nevertheless have the self-awareness to ask themselves whether they have been beguiled by brand awareness, even if only just a little. Those with typical Audi owner self confidence probably won't mind either way.

Facts at a glance

CAR: Audi A3 range
PRICES: £18,500 - £30,000 [est]
INSURANCE GROUP: 20-28 [est]
CO2 EMISSIONS: 37-130g/km
PERFORMANCE: [1.6 TDI]
0-62mph 10.5s / Max Speed 124mph
FUEL CONSUMPTION: [1.6 TDI]
74.3mpg (combined)
STANDARD SAFETY FEATURES:
ESP, ABS with EBA, twin front, side and curtain airbags
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